



# HUNTINGTON

## FIRE DISTRICT NEWS

Serving the Huntington Community Since 1843

Volume 1, Number 1, Winter 2010

### Commissioners' Corner

Welcome to the inaugural issue of **Huntington Fire District News**. This newsletter is designed to bring important information directly to the Huntington community. In **What's New** you will find news about events, new equipment, and methods. Each issue will include fire safety tips that can make a difference in an emergency. In his regular column Chief Brian Riggs will discuss issues of the day or express his views. In select issues we will profile the firefighters and volunteers who protect our community. And the **Looking Back** column will include selections from a treasure trove of historical Huntington photos.

Please enjoy this first issue, and we look forward to hearing your comments and observations regarding **Huntington Fire District News**.

- The Commissioners



## What's New

### New Rescue Truck Arrives

Our new KME Heavy Duty Rescue truck, designed to transport manpower, heavy-duty equipment, and lighting to the scene of an emergency, arrived in early December. Smaller than the old Pierce Quantum it replaces, the KME handles more equipment with roof and underbody storage and features through-the-body storage for oversized equipment.



The truck includes a 30,000-watt generator, telescoping tower lights, and 5 Hurst "Jaws of Life" spreaders and cutters, 4

preconnected and 1 portable. The truck has a full complement of rescue equipment to aid in the removal of entrapped accident victims, assist in confined space and high angle rescues, as well as water and ice-related emergencies.

The transition from the old truck to the new truck was nearly seamless, as most firefighters were already trained on the equipment and its use. Since it has been in service, the KME Heavy Duty Rescue truck has responded to numerous emergencies and hazard conditions. The old Pierce Quantum was sold to Holts Summit Fire Department, a suburb of Jefferson City, Missouri. The proceeds from that sale greatly reduced the cost of the new truck to the taxpayers.



### New Pumper

The Chiefs, Officers, and Board of Fire Commissioners are currently formulating specifications to replace a 20-year old front line pumper.

The existing truck is having difficulty meeting current inspection requirements. A new truck will also conform to the more stringent regulations, making it greener with reduced carbon dioxide emissions.



### Election Results

In the December 8th election, Cliff Schwier was re-elected to the Huntington Fire District Board of Fire Commissioners. Mr. Schwier, born and raised in Huntington, will serve his fifth term as a Commissioner.



### Huntington voted best on LI

**This just in!** Huntington Fire Department was voted Long Island's best firehouse by the Long Island Press in their "Best of LI" poll.

## In This Issue

- Commissioners' Corner
- What's New
- Fire Prevention & Safety Tips

- From the Chief
- Looking Back
- Profile: Bruce Smith

# Fire Prevention & Safety Tips

## 10 Good Sense Fire Safety Tips

1. Create an escape plan and route.
2. Teach children how to evacuate the house or apartment.
3. Establish a meeting place in front of your house or apartment to meet. If someone is missing, tell firefighters. NEVER go back inside yourself.
4. Call **(631) 427-3131** from a neighbor's house.
5. Make sure windows and doors can be unlocked/opened quickly.
6. If there is more than one level, have escape ladders for upstairs rooms.
7. During a fire, check doors with the back of your hand. If you feel heat, use alternative exit.
8. In smoke, crawl on hands and knees to nearest exit.
9. Install smoke alarms on every level and in all bedrooms.
10. Test smoke alarms monthly and change batteries annually.



## Burner Service

Winter is here and heating units are working hard. If you haven't already done so, have your burner serviced and inspected by a trusted, licensed professional. They will make certain it is running efficiently and is exhausting bi-products up your chimney flue. And make sure to have a working carbon monoxide detector to alert you to any burner malfunctions.

## HUNTINGTON Wants You!

The Huntington Fire Department needs help to help serve our community better. Why not join us and become a New York State certified firefighter? It's a proud heritage of service.

You will be thoroughly trained on various tools, apparatus, and equipment and participate in assorted exercises and drills. Training is free, no cost to you. There is a Length of Service Awards Program, scholarships, and even some property tax breaks available.

So why not answer the call and become a member of the Huntington Fire Department as hundreds of others have done for 167 years? And then you can enjoy the sense of pride that comes from serving your community as a New York State certified firefighter.

Interested individuals please contact 2nd Assistant Chief Bob Berry at **631-427-3030**.

- Bob Berry, 2nd Assistant Chief



## From The Chief Supporting our firefighters

When the Board of Fire Commissioners wanted to send a newsletter to residents of the Huntington Fire District, I thought it was a fantastic idea. Then they told me about the column that I would have to write and nerves set in. What to write? Would my thoughts transfer to paper accurately? But I thought, I'm a firefighter. I can figure this out. So here it goes!

The Huntington Fire Department was formed in 1843 as an all-volunteer force comprised of friends, neighbors, and business people. It started using leather buckets and horse-drawn pumping equipment and progressed to today's diesel-powered engines that can supply 2,000 gallons of water per minute. Although the equipment has changed, the concept of neighbor-helping-neighbor has not. Our members come from all walks of life. They are carpenters, plumbers, accountants, and business owners with a common passion for helping others.

In the early days there wasn't much training as most fires involved all natural products. Today's firefighters are confronted with manmade products containing plastics and petroleum compounds that cause fires to burn much hotter. And they can release deadly

gasses within the smoke. Every firefighter must go through extensive training (minimum 107 hours) to learn what to expect during a fire and how to use equipment properly. We also respond to many other types of emergencies, such as auto accidents, gas leaks, carbon monoxide emergencies...and yes, we can still help get your cat out of a tree.

Our extensive fire education program teaches fire safety to schoolchildren through firehouse tours and school visits. During the holiday season we help Santa Claus deliver presents to children at Huntington Hospital.

And many members are personally involved with other charitable groups.

It is truly a personal honor to be the Chief of the Huntington Fire Department. Not many people receive the opportunity to work with and lead such a fine group of well-trained, enthusiastic individuals. They donate time from their personal lives to help others, 24/7, 365 days a year, sometimes interrupting family dinners or a well deserved night of rest. Remember, when you hear the fire whistle or see a firefighter with a blue courtesy light flashing, they are responding to help someone in need. That someone could be you.

Thank you and stay safe,

- Brian Riggs, Chief of Department





# Looking Back

A lot has changed since 1843 when the Huntington Fire Department was formed...



**1869:** Engine Company in front of newly built Wall Street Engine House.



**1910:** First motor driven apparatus Grabowski Hose Truck heading east on Main Street past the old Town Hall.



**1993:** 150th Anniversary Celebration of the Huntington Fire Department.

**1911:** New firehouse on Main Street just west of Stewart Ave.



## Profile

### Firefighter Bruce Smith

Bruce Smith became Fire District Supervisor in 1994. A graduate of Huntington High School and the State University of Farmingdale, he is a past Chief of the Department and a volunteer for over 32 years.

Bruce's responsibilities are many and varied. He supervises the paid staff, maintains mandated records, advises on equipment purchases, and oversees the maintenance of the facilities and firefighting equipment.

The staff of the Huntington Fire District consists of dispatchers (on duty 24-hours per day), a full-time mechanic, and maintenance personnel. Each is trained to different levels of expertise, from EMTs to apparatus drivers. Along with the Chief's Office and volunteers, the staff also provides educational programs at the firehouse and at local schools.

All equipment, breathing apparatus, trucks, and ladders must be inspected weekly and certified annually to standards established by OSHA and NFPA (National Fire Protection Association). Records to ensure the safety of the firefighters using the equipment must be maintained. Fire preplans must be established and documented to maintain the insurance rating for the community. Fire hydrant tests and maintenance are performed annually. These are among the duties and responsibilities of the Fire District Supervisor.

"Although the mission of the fire service remains the same, the dynamics and requirements have changed dramatically over the past 30 years," Smith noted. "The hazards are greater, the equipment is far more complex. September 11 and other tragedies have prompted the government to place more requirements and regulations on all of us."

"My position is to ensure that firefighters have the best equipment available to perform their duties. In turn, the community we serve receives the best possible protection against any emergency that should arise."

- Bruce Smith



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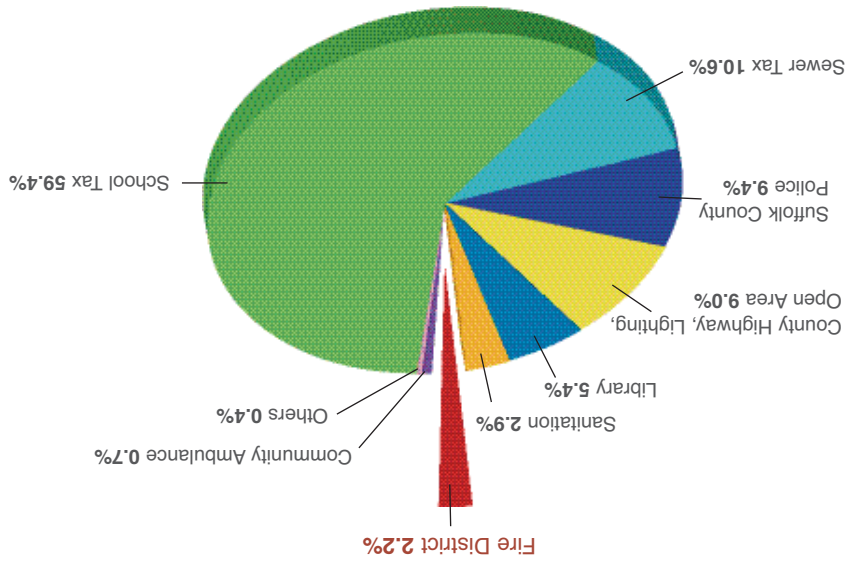
### Board of Fire Commissioners

Chairman: Thomas Brown  
Vice Chairman: Thomas Collins  
Edmund Erickson  
Andrew Kitzen  
Clifford Schwier

Secretary-Treasurer: Fred J. Buckholtz  
Secretary-Deputy Treasurer: Joyce Logan  
District Manager: Bruce Smith  
District Counsel: Joseph Frank

## Typical Tax Assessment in the Huntington Fire District

For every \$1,000 in real estate taxes – based on a home with an assessed value for tax purposes at \$4,000 – the following cost segments typically apply:



The Huntington Fire Department is manned by dedicated volunteers that respond to emergency calls received seven (7) days a week, twenty-four (24) hours a day. Their primary mission is to protect the lives and property of the residents of the Huntington Fire District. The equipment, headquarters, supplies, etc. needed by these volunteers are paid for by your tax dollars under the management of the Huntington Fire District. But what is a fire district? A fire district is a municipal corporation, governed by New York State laws, and managed by five (5) unpaid Fire Commissioners, one of which is elected by district residents each year for a five-year term. All Fire Commissioners must be district residents when elected and while serving in office. The pie chart shown depicts the approximate portion of your taxes that pay for this very vital service.

- Fred J. Buckholtz

Secretary-Treasurer  
Huntington Fire District